

the standard of the Canada Shorthorn herd book: "That an animal must trace on the side of both sire and dam to imported Shorthorns from Great Britain, or to cows already registered in the first six volumes of the Canada Shorthorn herd book having seven crosses," and since that time the publication of two Shorthorn herd books annually has been continued.

It will thus be seen that there is a difference in the standard of the books, but not a very great difference. While the British-American herd book requires tracing back to registered ancestry in all the seven crosses on the side of both sire and dam, the Canada herd book is content if on the side of the dam the crosses trace "to cows already registered in the first six volumes of the Canada Shorthorn herd book having seven crosses."

All animals recorded by certificate subsequent to the publishing of volume iv, C. S. H. H. 1880, and prior to the issue of volume v, 1882, were subjected to this severe test, which resulted in the rejection of a large portion of them, and hence the cry of injustice which arose from an aggrieved section of the Shorthorn community. The above is a brief *resume* of the causes that led to the publishing of the rival Shorthorn herd books. If we err in our statement of facts it is because our information has been imperfect, and we shall be very glad to be corrected in anything that we may have stated amiss.

Assuming that our data are correct, we shall now try calmly to review the situation.

1. As regards the breeders, it is undeniable that they were aggrieved, and sorely aggrieved, when the only record of their stock in the country was in disrepute with the surrounding nations, patriotism as well as self-interest demanded that they should take steps to remedy a state of matters so unsatisfactory. The misfortune seems to be the manner in which they set about the work. Although it is customary for the representative association of any breed to be the guardians of the herd book, and although this is perhaps the more natural and wiser method, it should be remembered that where such custodianship has been delegated to another representative body, even by the consent of silent acquiescence for a term of years, such body has certain rights in reference to their charge that cannot justly be ignored by another body whose interests give them a claim. We find it difficult to defend the action of the Shorthorn Association in *bluntly* asking the council to surrender to them the custodianship of the herd book on any terms. It was certainly a subject for *negotiation*, not for *demand*.

2. As regards the council, we fail to see wherein they could have acted differently, unless they had handed over their interest in the matter to the breeders, which it is possible might have been done had a different line of application been adopted. When the representative deputations met in conference in Toronto, what is there that was unreasonable in the stipulations there agreed upon? No doubt the council had an undesirable inheritance handed down to them through the imperfect judgment of one class of advisers and the imperfect discharge of duty on the part of former servants. Yet, would it have been a praiseworthy course had they stepped down from the post of duty at once and without any stipulations, because another party, with claims however good, sought to step up?

3. The results of the controversy, the publishing of the two herd-books, we look upon as unhappy, as already stated, although it is not an unmixed evil. No doubt the action of the Shorthorn Association has

resulted in an immense amount of good to the Shorthorn interest in Canada, by elevating the standard, and thus securing a higher stamp upon our Shorthorn herds. Had this only been brought about in a less complicated way, it had perhaps been well. There is confusion in the minds of many, very many, as to the necessity for the two books, and as to the merits of them. We are frequently beset with questions from Shorthorn breeders as to which is the best record, a perplexing question to an editor who recognizes in his public capacity the superiority of no breed or strain or family of stock. While it is very probable that the British-American Herd Book, with its registration mark (— —), carries with it a prestige amongst fashionable breeders not accorded to the registration mark ([]) of the Canada Shorthorn Herd Book, it should be remembered that perhaps as many animals are still being registered in the old herd book as in the new. The conviction that there should be an amalgamation at no distant day forces itself irresistibly upon our mind, and the sooner the better. Unless this step is taken, the publishing of the two books may, and likely will, continue for years, thus increasing the labors of successful unionists in coming time. It has come to this in other countries where different herd books have been simultaneously published. The United States had three different records of Shorthorns at one time: now they have but one, and we believe formed from the material of the three. How much easier it is to unite the waters of two parallel streams when the beds are shallow, and the channel narrow, than when they have far more widely diverged into broad and bimming rivers! How much more beautifully two young lives blend into one and harmoniously flow on forever than two old ones, where the habits have been so deeply grooved that they continually struggle for the main channel! If union is not the best course to be adopted, will some one tell us why? If steps are not taken in this direction, there are but two courses open. One is, that the publishing of the two books go on as heretofore, thus perpetuating the rivalry of those who should be brethren; the second is, that one of them shall succumb, not merge into the other. Suppose one of them should go under, and that one be the old book, would it afford *true* satisfaction to any one to look upon the ruin of the records of the past, especially Vols. I, and II., which contain animals only of a high standard? Should the new one go to the wall, would it not be a thousand pities to see such an amount of painstaking labor thrown to the winds? Would it not be very much better to have what is good in both united in one record, of which all the Shorthorn breeders of our country would feel proud? We say, take out what is good in both, for we are told that as yet neither is a *perfect* record.

We know that those instrumental in the separation will not likely favor union; but if so, we hope they will not oppose it unless for the best of reasons. We trust they will not imitate the dying Highlander, who in speaking of an enemy, said to the minister, "I forgive him," and turning to his son, who stood by, with the same breath repeated, "Jock, you take vengeance on him."

If we have not given a statement of the subject in hand strictly correct, we trust we shall be put right. If any one feels aggrieved by anything we have said, our columns are open to have the matter adjusted, but we sincerely trust parties who may see fit to criticise our views or write on the subject will continually bear in mind that the use of strong adjectives does not necessarily imply that these are embodied in strong logic.

Stock Feeders.

Why are they so rare, when the want of them is so sorely felt? In this land of stern winters we can think of no acquisition more important to the man who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow than that of being a finished feeder. The old-time farm hand is only employed now during the summer season. Formerly he found abundant work in winter in removing our forests, but these days are forever gone, so that the man who will not qualify himself for future usefulness in tending stock must either live on his summers' gains or leave for parts unknown. A young man can adopt the latter alternative, but seldom with advantage, as most countries are always abundantly supplied with this floating class. A married man cannot so readily pull up stakes, which is perhaps a mercy in the end. It is not easy accounting for this dissatisfied spirit that leads such numbers to journey to and fro like birds of passage when employment can readily be obtained by competent men. The birds show far more wisdom than those rovers, as they have a definite object in view, while the wandering laborer often goes he knows not where, nor has he any fixed idea of what he intends to do.

The number of idlers in winter it is evident are on the increase, and the wage of summer on the increase also. Indeed the one keeps pace with the other. The idea of living in winter on the summer's earnings leads the laborer to be more exorbitant in his demands, hence the farmer has to give for six months' work what is usually the price of nine.

For this the laborers are not alone responsible. Through the idea of what appears to us a false economy, farmers in very many instances discharge their workhands at the earliest possible moment, however faithful or competent, trusting to luck or something even less real, if that be possible, to bring them a good hand next spring. The only present alternative for the laborer is to tie up his traps and go away on a tramp, or live till next spring on his summer's wage, smothering his revenge till the time when the farmer wishes to re-engage help.

The evils resulting from this state of things are very great. The item of increased summer wages is the least of these. The moment a young man commences hibernating in winter his usefulness is on the wane. He loses all fixedness of aim in regard to bettering his outward circumstances. Indolence, like a parasite, sucks up the best juices of manly resolve, and soon his highest ambition is to get the *greatest possible amount of pay for the least possible amount of work*. Fancy an army of 50,000 loungers prowling about amongst our homes in Ontario every winter, with the above motto emblazoned on their portentous banners, and engaged more or less in that evil work which the ruler of darkness always gives to idle hands, and then ask whither are we drifting?

It need not be so. If there was no help for the evil, we would hold our peace. It should not be so, more especially since the help of this class may be employed with mutual advantage. Let farmers but keep more stock, and keep far better what they have. Let them do in winter all work that can be done at such a time, and no man worth engaging need lose one working day the year round.

But if feeding is to be the employment of farm laborers in winter, this class must prepare themselves for the work. A feeder must bring qualifications to his work additional to those which fit him for ordinary farm work:

He should be *prompt* in his movements. Animals look for their feed at a certain hour, and just at the time they should get it. The lowing of cattle, the